

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 STR-08 CEA-02

CIEP-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 FRB-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 TAR-02 /201 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/GCP:DTMORRISON:BJ

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, IS, EEC

SUBJECT: U.S.-ISRAEL TRADE RELATIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 6829, TEL AVIV 9188 (NOTAL)

1. ISRAELI MINISTRY COMMERCE/INDUSTRY ASST DIR GEN TALBAR
TOOK OCCASION OF NOV. 29 WASHINGTON STOPOVER ON RETURN
TRIP FROM SOUTH AMERICA TO CALL ON DEP ASST SECY RENNER
AND PROVIDE UPDATE OF CURRENT STATUS EC-ISRAEL
RENEGOTIATIONS.

2. TALBAR NOTED THAT THE NEXT MEETING BETWEEN THE EC
COMMISSION AND ISRAELI NEGOTIATORS SCHEDULED FOR DEC. 9,
1973, FOLLOWING DEC. 4-5 EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
MEETING AT WHICH GOI EXPECTS EC COMMISSION'S NEGOTIATING
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MANDATE TO BE EXPANDED. TALBAR OPTIMISTIC THAT

COMMISSION SEEKING AND LIKELY TO SECURE MANDATE WHICH WILL SUBSTANTIALLY MEET GOI DEMANDS FOR RENEGOTIATED AGREEMENT--I.E- LONGER PERIOD FOR ISRAELI TARIFF REDUCTIONS ON EC EXPORTS AND EXPANDED COVERAGE OF ISRAELI AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS IN MANNER WHICH WOULD MORE CLOSELY APPROXIMATE TREATMENT GIVEN BY EC TO OTHER ASSOCIATES. TALBAR NOTED THAT GOI PRODUCT LISTS BEING PREPARED FOR NEGOTIATIONS NOT YET FINALIZED. IN RESPONSE RENNER QUERY WHETHER EC-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS AFFECTED BY ME WAR, TALBAR REPLIED GOI HAD EXPECTED ADVERSE INFLUENCE

BUT HAD ENCOUNTERED ABSOLUTELY NONE IN ITS EXCHANGES WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS.

3. RENNER TOOK OCCASION TO REITERATE REASONS FOR USG OPPOSITION TO EC-ISRAEL TRADE AGREEMENT (I.E. FURTHER UNDERMINING OF MFN PRINCIPLE WHICH KEYSTONE OF U.S. ECONOMIC POLICY AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST U.S. TRADE) - MAKING CLEAR THAT U.S. CONCERNS GENERAL AND NOT IN WAY REFLECTION OF USG POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL. RENNER RECALLED UNDERSTANDING FROM JULY 29, 1973 MALMGREN/RENNER DISCUSSIONS IN JERUSALEM WITH ISRAEL OFFICIALS THAT GOI PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE TARIFF REDUCTIONS IN MTN OR BILATERALLY AS MEANS OF TAKING INTO ACCOUNT U.S. INTERESTS AFFECTED BY EC-ISRAEL AGREEMENT. USG CONTINUED TO THINK ISRAEL SHOULD FIND WAY TO PROTECT TRADE INTERESTS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATING AGAINST U.S. RENNER REMINDED TALBAR OF INFORMAL PRODUCT LIST (SHOWING AREAS OF POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO U.S. TRADE INTERESTS) PROVIDED AT JULY 73 MEETING AND POINTED OUT USG WOULD WELCOME GOI COMMENTS.

4. TALBAR REPEATED GOI POSITION THAT ISRAEL FORCED TO SEEK EC ASSOCIATION TO AVOID ECONOMIC ISOLATION AS EC MOVED TOWARD EFTA AGREEMENT AND SPECIAL AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. EC WAS ISRAEL'S MOST IMPORTANT MARKET AND ISRAEL NEEDED ASSOCIATION TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE WITH COUNTRIES ENJOYING SPECIAL EC TARIFF TREATMENT. KISSINGER

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